To every individuall Member of the honorable Houſe of COMMONS.

The humble Remonſtrance of *George Lilburn*, Eſquire.

SIR,

AS I have ſtudied nothing more then to be ſerviceable in my generation, by employing all my power to preſerve the Nations intereſt, (as an evidence wherof in the worſt of times I was not only an oppoſer, but one that ſuffered both in perſon and eſtate, for oppoſing Ship-money, Projects, Biſhops, &c.) ſo it could never enter into my thoughts, that I who had been ſuch an eminent aſſertor of the privileges of Parliament, and Liberties of the people, ſhould have been (as now) neceſſitated to take this courſe to manifeſt my integrity, and blow off that duſt which hath lately been caſt upon me by Mr. *John Blackſton*, a ſuppoſed member of your Houſe, and ſome other his accompliſes, whoſe ſlanderous ſuggeſtions, backt with his power and intereſt, ſeemingly hath gained ſo much credit, even with the beſt men, (who have been Strangers to my actions, (ſave onely by report) that I find it a very hard matter, by private diſcourſe to remove that prejudice by many conceived againſt me. To the end therefore that the whole Truth may be made manifeſt, and that you may not be guided by report, I have been bold in this way to repreſent unto you the true ſtate of my caſe, together with the originall riſe and growth of Mr. *John Blackſtons* enmity, in which I ſhall not deviate in the leaſt from the truth; neither ſhall it be in his power to contradict me in a ſyllable. Truth fears no colours, nor ſeeks corners. I

shall declare it, and leave you to judge righteous judgment between my accusers and me.

The Copie of *Colonel Tho. Midfords* Certificate, with others given under their hands.

THat about July, 1642. Thomas Midford *and* George Lilburn *went on purpose to the House of Sir Henry Vane the elder, neer Charing-Cross, and there acquainted him of the frequent meetings of the Papists and their adherents in the County of Durham, and that they did not only gather together most of the prime Horses of the said County, but did exercise them in Arms, and trained the said Horse, to the discouragement of all the true-hearted Protestants of the said County: And that the Sea-ports of the said County were fit to be taken care of, which the said Sir Henry Vane promised to take timely care of, making shew that he intended shortly to goe down into the said County: In the mean time, desired the said George Lilburn, and the said Thomas Midford to go to the Deputy-Lieutenants and acquaint them with the aforesaid information, and to tell them from him, that he could not then write to them concerning the same, but bid them take care thereof, till he gave further Order.*

The said Thomas Midford, about the end of the said month, coming into the said County, went to Durham, and did acquaint Sir Wil. Darcy, being then high Sheriff of the said County, Sir John Conyers, and others at John Hals house in Durham, of the same, who returned the said Midford no other answer, but wel, wel, *and seemed to make no great matter thereof.*

28 *June*, 1642. Tho. Midford

Suddenly after I returned from *London* into the Country, where I remained till about the end of *August* 1642, where, in the generall Assize held for the County of *Durham*, being a Justice of Peace for the said County, I was indicted upon the Statute of Recusancy for not coming to common Prayer, and put of the Bench, and turned out of Commission by Judge *Heath*.

So-

Sodainly after, the Earl of *Newcaſtle* beginning to Atray men) I was invited by ſeverall Northern Gentlemen, *viz.* Mr. *George Gray*, Mr. *Henry Lever*, Mr. *Robert Carre*, *&c.* to go into *Scotland*, to try if they could obtain force to oppoſe the Earl of *Newcaſtle*, and accordingly I with ſeverall other Gentlemen did wait upon Mr. *John Pickering* the States Agent reſident at *Edenborough*, and informed him of the ſtate of the Northern Counties, which he by Letter intimated to the Parliament, but received no anſwer thereto.

Soon after I returned to *Berwick*, and thence to *Anwick*, where I received a Letter from my Wife, intimating, That if I would come home and be quiet, Sir *William Lampton* had promiſed to protect me.

But comming home, I found that Capt. *Sawkell* was ordered to ſeiz upon my houſe and goods, by order of the Earl of *Newcaſtle*; whereupon I was neceſſitated to go to the ſaid Earl at *Newcaſtle*, to try if I could prevent the ſaid ſeizure; where being come, I was ſeized on by Baron *Lidall* and others, and hurried to and fro, and put in danger of my life; but by the merty of God, & through the favor of M. *Francis Cuvaby*, at length I eſcaped & got home to my houſe, where I remained privately for about a forthight, at which time there was to be a meeting at *Durham* by ſeverall Gentlemen of the Country, who endevoured to put the Commiſſion of Array in execution; to which meeting I was invited by ſeverall wel-affected Gentlemen, *viz.* Captain *Fulthorp*, and Mr. *Robert Hutton*; to the end, that in the face of the Country we might oppoſe the ſaid Commiſſion which accordingly we did, firſt with words, ſhewing the illegality thereof, afterward with ſwords and ſtaves for ſome ſpace, till being over-powered with armed men, I and the reſt were forced to fly for our lives from *Durham*. From which time, there were many endevors to take me priſoner; for prevention whereof, I removed to *Stockton*, and going from *Stockton* I heard that Captain *Hotham* was come to *Darneton*; ſo I endevoured to get thither, but in my journey was taken, (having only one man) it being *November* 11. 1642. and brought to *Durham* Gaole; and my Horſes, weapons and cloaths taken from me,

where, after many invitations, solicitations and threats to induce me to join and contribute, (all which I refused) I was carried to *York* pinioned, on foot, through water and dirt, where I lay in great misery for the space of 14 Months, in which time I was often solicited by Mr. *Ralph Lambton* but to send a horse, orgive some smal contribution to the maintenance the Earl of *Newcastles* Army; All which proffers were scorned and refused, as will be attested by the said *Ralph Lambton*, and others.

That being after fourteen months imprisonment exchanged by the Parliament for one Captain *Cock* prisoner at *Dover* Castle, the Parliament were pleased by their Ordinance of *April* 1 1643, together with others, to appoint me to be one of the Committee for Sequestrations in the said County; the faithfull discharge of which Trust, my most malicious adversaries (I am confident) cannot question.

That about *August* 1647, *John Hasbands*, the States Agent for Sequestrations, preferred a Charge against one *Thomas Shadford* (Mr. *Blackston's* Brother in Law) a member of the said Committee, and produced me, with severall others, for the proof of the said Charge.

The particulars of which Charge, because it is now depending before the honourable Committee for the Northern Association to be tried, I shall forbear to mention; although it be apparent, that my appearing against Mr. Blackstons *Brother in law* (*Mr.* Shadford) *hath been one of the originall causes of Mr.* Blackstons *envie, and my present trouble.* For,

Soon after the exhibition and proof of the said Charge, Mr. *Shadford*, in stead of answering the said Charge, preferred a Charge against me to the same Committee, but proved never a word of it; which Charge I answered the same month, and often solicited to have a fair trial, but never could obtain it: the cause of which, together with the reason of *Mr. Blackstons* envie, shall more at large appear.

Mr. *John Blackston* having obtained an Order from the House of Commons for the settling of three orthodox Ministers, in stead whereof he would have setled three malignant disaffected

disaffected Priests; *viz. Lee, Reason*, and a Scotchman; the doing whereof I opposed and prevented for that time, (there being good cause for the same) however, Mr. *John Blackston* soon after made a party in the C[illegible]ee in my absence, and placed them, and setled upon [illegible]em 120 pounds *per annum*.

That when the Charge against Mr. *Shadford* was exhibited (in which I did, I confess, eminently appear, being convinced in conscience of the truth thereof;) and that Mr. *Shadford* had also brought a Charge against me, (I will not say, by Master *Blackston's* advice, although it be more then probable,) Mr. *John Blackston* by his power in the Committee caused an Order to be entred by the Clerk of the Committee to make all the proceedings concerning the said two Charges, null; and likewise commanded the Clerk that he should not give copies thereof to any, as by the said Order may appear.

That Mr. *Blackston* having got himself into the possession of the Lordship of *Newton*, which was part of the estate of *Toby Blackston* his Brother, a notorious Delinquent; which estate was protected by the said Mr. *John Blackston*, notwithstanding it was sequestrable, and endeavoured to be sequestred by *John Husbands* and my self: which estate lay nigh unto *Frankland* and *Frankland* Wood, part of the Lands belonging to the Bishop of *Durham*, which Land was at that time under the surveigh of Mr. *George Grey*, Mr. *Thomas Sandal*, Mr. *John Husbands*, and my self, who were chosen Surveighors of those Lands by the Trustees for the sale of Bishops Lands. We (having taken a view our selves, and having called a Jury of fifteen Gentlemen and Yeomen of the said County, who with us surveighed the same upon oath, and examined all Writings and Records concerning the said Manner) were drawing up the surveigh to make return thereof to the Trustees and Contractors; at which time Mistris *Blackston*, in the name of her Husband, came unto me, desiring my favour, that I would be a means that it might be certified in the Surveigh, that the Manner of *Newton* formerly had right for pennage, and mastage for hogs, and for house-boot, hedge-boot, and free-boot for the house, To which I replyed, That either she must pro-

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duce some evidence or writing for the title, or else the Surveighors could not make any such return: notwithstanding, she did once or twice sollicite to the same purpose; and being told we could not do such an unjust act, she gave many upbraiding Speeches [illegible] and the rest of the Surveighours: insomuch, that we were forced to leave her alone in the room.

Soon after we had returned the Surveigh of the said Mannor of *Chester*, under our hands and seals, to the Trustees one part, and to the Contractors another, as just as ever was, as by our Oaths we are ready to aver, Mr. *John Blackston* took out a Particular, and purchased *Durham* Castle, and divers of those Woods and Lands, to the value of about 5000 pound; after the purchase of which, the said Mr. *John Blackston*, or some other for him, dealt with one *Edward Colston* (who was a Surveighor, but never surveighed any of those Lands) together with the aforesaid Mr. *Sanders*, to make him some reprisals for Pannage and Mastage, and many other things, which ought not to be done, nor could be found by the Jury to be incident to any of the said Lands: by which he got an abatement of a thousand and odde pounds more then what was allowed by the former Jury, as by the reprisals doth appear. And because there was an Ordinance of Parliament that no certificate should be valid, unlesse it were under the hands of three Surveighours, the hand of one Mr. *John Duncalfe* was counterfeited to the said certificate, who then was out of the County, as he hath before witnesse affirmed; whereby the State was cheated of above a thousand pounds.

Now because I have from time to time discovered the unjust and indirect dealings of the said Mr. *John Blackston* and his accomplices, he hath from time to time endeavoured by Scandalous informations to the Parliament, and severall Members thereof, to blast my repute by terming me a delinquent, &c. the very thought whereof I abhorre, and desire no other favour for all my service, but to obtain a speedy and fair tryall; by which I doubt not but that their envie and my innocency will plainly appear.

To

To conclude,

I desire you to observe in the first place, that these crimes I am accused of, are crimes of almost seven years standing; and if true, by them concealed, and I suffered to act with them by authority of Parliament, which they ought not to have suffered, but rather to have sequestred me; but it seems when they found me opposite to their interest, and themselves like to be brought upon the stage, they sought for matter against me, and finding none, they were resolved they would frame something that they might found a slander upon, hoping thereby to prevent their further prosecution.

Secondly, I pray observe that Mr. *Shadfords* charge was exhibited, and the greatest part of it proved about *August*, 1647, but yet in all this time he hath not answered thereto, and that my charge was exhibited about *September*, 1647, and answered the same month, but never a word proved to this very day, although I have from time to time solicited to obtain a legall hearing, that by the law I might be justified or condemned.

Thirdly, I appeale to all rationall Gentlemen to be judges in this case, whether it be not a sufficient ground for me to except against Mr. *John Blackstons* being one of my Judges, being brother in law to my accuser, and a person who from time to time hath privately and publickly by slanderous suggestions endeavoured to destroy my repute, by which actions he hath apparently prejudged me a Delinquent without evidence or hearing, as is known to severall Members of your House; by which means he hath (being indeed a party interested in the accusation) made himself incapable of being a Judge, no man being by Law or reason to be Judge in his own case.

Nor do I this as fearing the Justice of my cause (for were my worst enemies my Judges herein, I could not feare) only reserving unto my self the benefit the law allowes me as an Englishman. For my part (although I shall be carefull to prevent a surprize, yet) not being conscious of guilt, I am not carefull what to answer; truth needs no Sophistry, nor fidelity friends or supporters, I fear not the Justice of my Judges, and being

being innocent I shall not need their mercy; 'Tis fit for Traytors and perfidious persons (not those whose deeds are done in the day) to fear a tryall, and flatter a Judge. According to the utmost of my power I have been upright, and having betrothed the interest of the Nation; and in all things done unto others, as I would they should doe unto me; am bold to say my innocency and fidelity will shine maugre the cloudy calumniations of Mr. *Blackston* and his accomplices.

Sir, The nations interest hath engaged me on the one side, and my reputation (which to an Englishman should be dearer then life) hath engaged me on the other, for the preservation whereof I am resolved to hazzard all my possibilities, interest and relations; In order whereunto in this way I presse to obtain a fair and legall Tryall, that Justice may take place, and the truth be manifest, which is the only desire of,

March 18. 1649. *George Lilburn* Esq;

Being the promised year of freedom.

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